

Idaho Dental Education Program

STRATEGIC PLAN

2015-2019

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Idaho Dental Education Program is to provide Idaho residents with access to quality educational opportunities in the field of dentistry.

The Idaho Dental Education Program is designed to provide Idaho with outstanding dental professionals through a combination of adequate access for residents and the high quality of education provided. The graduates of the Idaho Dental Education Program will possess the ability to practice today's dentistry. Furthermore, they will have the background to evaluate changes in future treatment methods as they relate to providing outstanding patient care.

The Idaho Dental Education Program is managed so that it fulfills its mission and vision in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This management style compliments the design of the program and provides the best value for the citizens of Idaho who fund the program.

GOALS OF THE IDAHO DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Idaho Dental Education Program (IDEP) serves as the sole route of state supported dental education for residents of Idaho. The IDEP program has been consistent in adhering to the mission statement by fulfilling the following goals:

Goal 1: Provide access to a quality dental education for qualified Idaho residents.

Objective:

Provide dental education opportunities for Idaho residents comparable to residents of other states.

- *Performance Measure:*
 - Contract for 4-year dental education for at least 8 Idaho residents.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Current contract in place with Creighton University School of Dentistry or another accredited dental school.
- *Performance Measure:*
 - Board examination scores on both Parts I and II of the Dental National Boards.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Pass rate will meet or exceed 90%.
- *Performance Measure:*
 - Percentage of first time pass rate on the Western Regional Board Examination or Central Regional Dental Testing Service.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Pass rate will meet or exceed 90%.

Objective:

Provide additional opportunities for Idaho residents to obtain a quality dental education.

- *Performance Measure:*
 - Number of students in the program.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Increase the number of students in the program from 8 to 10.

Goal 2: Maintain some control over the rising costs of dental education.

Objective:

Provide the State of Idaho with a competitive value in educating Idaho dentists.

- *Performance Measure:*
 - State cost per student.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Cost per student will be less than 50% of the national average state cost per DDSE (DDS Equivalent). The cost per DDSE is a commonly utilized measure to evaluate the relative cost of a dental education program.

Goal 3: Serve as a mechanism for responding to the present and/or the anticipated distribution of dental personnel in Idaho.

Objective:

Help meet the needs for dentists in all geographic regions of the state.

- *Performance Measure:*
 - Geographical acceptance of students into the IDEP program.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Students from each of the 4 regions of Idaho (North, Central, Southwest, and Southeast) granted acceptance each year.
- *Performance Measure:*
 - Return rates.
- *Benchmark:*
 - Maintain return rates of program graduates in private practice which average greater than 50%.

Goal 4: Provide access for dental professionals to facilities, equipment, and resources to update and maintain professional skills.

Objective:

Provide current resources to aid the residents of Idaho by maintaining/increasing the professional skills of Idaho Dentists.

- *Performance Measure:*
 - Continuing Dental Education (CDE).
- *Benchmark:*
 - Provide continuing dental education opportunities for regional dental professionals when the need arises.
- *Performance Measure:*
 - Remediation of Idaho dentists (if/when necessary).
- *Benchmark:*
 - Successfully aid in the remediation of any Idaho dentist, in cooperation with the State Board of Dentistry and the Idaho Advanced General Dentistry Program, such that the individual dentist may successfully return to practice.

KEY EXTERNAL FACTORS:

Funding:

Most Idaho Dental Education Program goals and objectives assume ongoing, and in some cases additional, levels of State legislative appropriations. Availability of these funds can be uncertain. Currently with State budget reductions that specifically impact our program, the goal to increase the number of available positions within the program from 8 to 10 is not feasible, but this will remain a long-term goal for the program.

Program Participant Choice:

Some IDEP goals are dependent upon choices made by individual students, such as choosing where to practice. Even though this is beyond our control, we have had an excellent track record of program graduates returning to Idaho to practice.

Idaho Dentist to Population Ratio

The more populated areas of Idaho are more saturated with dentists, making it difficult for new graduates to enter the workforce in these areas. With this in mind, we have still seen a good percentage of program graduates return to Idaho to practice.

Educational Debt of Graduates

The average educational debt of IDEP graduates continues to increase each year (for 2012 it was \$186,385). This amount of debt may limit graduates to more urban areas of practice initially.

Student Performance

Some of the goals of the program are dependent upon pre-program students to excel in their preparation for the program. However, we have not encountered difficulty in finding highly qualified applicants from all areas of the State.